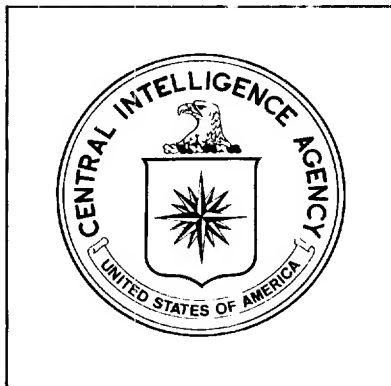


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STAFF NOTES:

Middle East Africa South Asia

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MIDDLE EAST – AFRICA – SOUTH ASIA

This publication is prepared for regional specialists in the Washington community by the Middle East - Africa Division, Office of Current Intelligence, with occasional contributions from other offices within the Directorate of Intelligence. Comments and queries are welcome. They should be directed to the authors of the individual articles.

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Angola

FNLA Establishing New Military Base

The National Front for the Liberation of Angola, one of the three liberation groups that participate with the Portuguese in Angola's transitional government, is establishing a major military base at Quiende, a town in a district in northwestern Angola. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] the base will replace the training and support facility the Front has long maintained in Zaire with the support of Zairian President Mobutu. The Front already has more than 2,000 troops at Quiende. It is not known whether the Front's Chinese military advisers are also moving from Zaire to the new base.

The National Front apparently has cleared the district of most of the forces of its major rival, the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola. The Front now has unobstructed access to the district's port city of Ambrizete and the main highway to Luanda, 300 miles away. The base is located in the center of the area inhabited by the Bakongo tribe--the ethnic group from which the Front draws its main support.

Since Angola's transitional government was installed last January, the National Front has operated under the handicap of not having a headquarters in Angola. The political and military tensions that exist between it and the Popular Movement oblige the Front to have a better command post inside the territory than its present office in Luanda. Luanda is a major center of support for the Popular Movement. (CONFIDENTIAL)

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Central African Republic

Military and Government Officials Upset with Bokassa

Military and government officials are becoming disgruntled over moves by President Bokassa to increase his personal security since the military coup in neighboring Chad last month.

25X1C [REDACTED] Bokassa has established a special personal security unit composed of fellow M'Baka tribesmen at the heavily guarded retreat outside Bangui where he has secluded himself. The special unit receives a higher salary than the regular military forces and is being trained by Soviet advisers supplied with small arms and ammunition that the army received from the Soviets last December. Bokassa has also arbitrarily sacked the army commander, a non-M'Baka tribesman, who is said to be critical of the way Bokassa has been running the government.

These moves reportedly had an adverse effect on army morale. Morale in the gendarmerie has been declining since Bokassa's arrest last November of its commander, General Lingoupou, for alleged coup-plotting.

Meanwhile, government ministers are said to be fed up with Bokassa's maladministration, his extravagance during his numerous extended trips abroad, and his persistent suspicions regarding his personal security. They are rumored to be resisting the President's attempts to reshuffle the cabinet he installed only last January. If Bokassa's obsession with his personal security continues and he remains insensitive to his country's chronic economic problems, he may well be laying the foundation for an attempt to oust him. (SECRET/NO FOREIGN DISSEM)

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